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# PSCnews

*Public Service Commission of South Carolina*

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## South Carolina to Host Annual Gathering of Southeastern Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Charleston, South Carolina, will be the host city for the annual Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) conference this year. As SEARUC's current president, PSC Commissioner David Wright is in charge of the three-day event. The conference will take place at the Charleston Place Hotel and Convention Center June 21-23, 2009.

SEARUC is an organization comprised of members from the ten southeastern states, whose purpose is the advancement and education of commission regulation related to the operation and supervision of regulated public utilities, and is affiliated with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). A major focus of the conference will be on carbon emission issues facing the southeastern states and energy efficiency and conservation programs. House Majority Whip James Clyburn and Senator Jim DeMint have been invited to speak in addition to other state and national leaders.

NARUC President Fred Butler and former Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Joseph Kelliher, as well as chief executives from several of South Carolina's energy companies, will participate in a discussion on carbon emission control legislation, "cap and trade" proposals, and renewable portfolio standards. Michael Couick, president of the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, along with

other panelists will discuss energy efficiency initiatives and renewable energy opportunities for the South. Several members of the General Assembly and the Public Utilities Review Committee will also participate in the conference, including Sen. Thomas Alexander, Rep. Bill Sandifer, Rep. Harry Cato, Sen. Luke Rankin, Rep. Harry Ott and Mr. Eric Ebersole.



Additionally, there will be panel discussions on topics related to the consolidation of small water and sewer companies and the state of the aging water infrastructure in our region, as well as breakout sessions on broadband network telecommunications, nuclear power generation, and natural gas issues.

A special event, "An Evening at the Hunley," featuring the Confederate States historic submarine the *H.L. Hunley*, is planned to close the conference on Tuesday night. Senate President *Pro Tempore* Glenn McConnell, a Charleston historian, will deliver a special address on the *Hunley*.

For more information on the conference or to register, please visit our website at [www.psc.sc.gov/searuc2009](http://www.psc.sc.gov/searuc2009).